

**THE NORTH HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
5 LINSLEY STREET
NORTH HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES**

Date: December 11, 2014
6:30 p.m.

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT CENTRAL OFFICE, 5 LINSLEY STREET, NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473

Attendance at this REGULAR Meeting: Randi Petersen, Bryan Bogen, Goldie Adele, Matthew Kerzner, Jennifer Caldwell, Jennifer Cecarelli, Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Melinda McKenna, Assistant Superintendent, and Kristine Carling, Director of Finance, Operations and Human Services.

Absent: Anita Anderson, Wesley O'Brien, and Alicia Clapp

1. Presentation from Bernie Pellegrino, North Haven Education Foundation

Mr. Pellegrino spoke to the Board of Education about what the North Haven Foundation does and how it has funded some of the programs in the district over the past ten (10) years. Mr. Pellegrino explained how the Foundation got started and what types of projects it funds. The North Haven Education Foundation has seventeen members and they are always looking for others to come on board.

2. Presentation from Lisette Campos, World Language Program Coordinator

Mrs. Campos spoke about the World Language Program in the District and what was going on at each level in World Language. Mrs. Campos spoke of what the teachers in the District were doing with regards to professional development. She also updated the Board of the Curriculum Writing that is being done and how her department aligns with the Common Core.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes of November 13, 2014

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved: to approve the items on the Consent Agenda

Approved

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Items Removed from Consent Agenda:

4. Student Reports

Jake Houston reported:

- Holiday fundraisers at the High School
- Cast finalized for The Sound of Music – February 2015
- Instrumental and Holiday Concert will be December 16, 2014
- 8th graders from NHMS will be coming to NHHS for a choral concert with all the instrumental and choral groups to show them what the music is like at the High School
- Seniors who applied for early admission to colleges are starting to hear back from schools
- Regular college applications are due around January 1, 2015

5. Chairman's Report – No Chairman's Report

6. Report of Standing Committees

a. Finance and Operations

1. Director of Finance and Operation's Report

Mr. Bogen reported:

- There has been a lot of encumbering districtwide
- One million dollar deficit in Special Education, which is normal this time of year as we await grant funding levels
- Many new programs have been developed in Special Education so that children are being serviced in house instead of out placing these students (e.g. ILS Intensive Learning Support and ITS Intensive Therapeutic Support.) There is also another program being developed for students that need to be self-contained.
- North Haven is still waiting on the State Grant funding levels.
- Property Services Account – boiler repair cost \$45,000 and the pipe burst in the science lab at High School cost \$35,000. Mrs. Carling reported she anticipates recuperating most of this money through the insurance reimbursement.
- Looking into new grants that are out there to apply for
- Budget workshops will begin in January. They are scheduled for January 15, 22, and 29, if needed.
- Administrators have been meeting with Dr. Cronin, Melinda McKenna and Kristine Carling presenting their budgets line by line.
- Playground – Mrs. Carling stated that the district insurance company does inspections of playgrounds, which we are going to take advantage of this spring. Mr. Diana has been visiting each playground and keeping a list of what needs to be repaired/replaced.
- In the process of being audited by the State for the School Lunch Program

2. Approval of the 2014-2015 Monthly Financial Report

Moved: to approve the 2014-2015 Monthly Financial Report

Approved

MOVED: Jennifer Caldwell
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

2. Approval of Certificate of Authority for Dana Corriveau

No approval necessary regarding this matter.

b. Curriculum, Instruction and Planning

Mrs. McKenna reported that Curriculum, Instruction and Planning met on Monday, December 1, 2014 and discussed the following:

• Pilot of New NHHS Learning Expectations- Dr. Dallai joined us for the discussion. Due to the changing and uncertainty of standardized testing in grade 11, faculty work groups at the high school are working to develop new Learning Expectations. The C & I Committee agreed to let the school pilot revised expectations for the class of 2016.

- SADD Club proposal for therapy dog to be at NHHS during mid-term exams- This was discussed and will be piloted during mid-terms at the high school.
- Discussion of potential new course proposals:

- o Chinese IV
- o Chinese grade 6

- *Physical Education Electives (Sports Management, Athletic Training, Health Cadets)*

- Advanced Personal Finance
- Freshman Seminar

The group discussed the need to expand our course offerings at the high school level. Budget will play a large role in what we are able to offer. The group was in agreement that we should work to increase course offerings. A great deal of time was spent discussing the idea of offering Chinese IV and Chinese in grade 6. There are still some unanswered questions and the World Language Coordinator and current Chinese teacher will be invited to our January meeting to continue this discussion

- Teachers' College Reading and Writing Program Training opportunity – Mrs. McKenna shared that she would like to bring this training into the district for K-5 teachers. The focus would be in Writers' Workshop. Professional Development is scheduled for K-5 teachers on the February 13th professional development day. The district is currently on the waitlist to have Columbia Affiliates work with our teachers. It is not certain how long that might take. Mrs. McKenna has some money from the Title Grants that can be used to pay for this training. Mrs. Clapp recommended asking the North Haven Education Foundation for assistance as well.

- New Club Proposal: Creative Musicians Club- Approved
- Follow up on Future Problem Solvers/ Creative Learning questions from the October meeting & elementary field trips- We did not have time to follow up on these topics.
- Nancy Leddy (Director of Community Service)- Mrs. Leddy spoke with the group about some potential projects she would like to bring into the district. A local donor who is a graduate of the North Haven Public Schools would like to give back to the community. They are proposing a Weekend Food Backpack project which would send fruits and vegetables home with students. The logistics of this will need to be worked out. Mrs. McKenna will work with Mrs. Leddy on this. The second proposal is to offer new courses to high school students – details of this proposal need to be worked out.
- Discussion of Special Education Programs- Mrs. Corriveau shared information about the TLC (Therapeutic Learning Program) at Montowese School and the need to add an additional teacher. Adding this staff, will allow the program to meet the full continuum of need for students. The committee was in favor of adding an additional teacher.

c. Building Committee

Mr. Adele reported the committee selected an OSF reviewer to basically review our documents. Today the committee selected an Owners Representative. The Owner's Representatives are the eyes and ears on the construction site and bring information back to the committee. Environmental testing completed and over all the results were positive. Mr. Adele also stated that the committee made further decisions on what items to eliminate/change to get back on budget, which is still a work in progress. Next Building Committee will meet again next Monday, December 15, 2014.

d. Policy Committee

1. Adoption of Policy #3542 – Food Service Policy
(Policy given out at Policy Workshop – Please bring to reference)

Moved: the adoption of Policy #3542 – Food Service Policy

Tabled

MOVED: Matthew Kerzner
SECOND: Goldie Adele
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

There was some discussion regarding this matter. This Item will be re-visited on January 8, 2015, which is the next Board of Education Meeting

e. Athletic Committee

Mrs. Petersen reported:

1. Correspondence
 - ✓ All State – All Area awards
 - Boys Cross Country: Ryan Brennan (NH Register All Area and All State)
 - Boys Soccer: Ryan Chieffo (All State and GNHSO recipient for Sportsmanship)
 - ✓ Team Postseason
 - Football competing in Class L Semifinals on Saturday 12/6 at 2pm vs. Windsor HS in Windsor, CT
 - Boys Soccer advanced to CIAC
 - Boys and Girls Cross Country had 4 individuals finish in the Class L top 100. Most notable Elyse Symon finished 24th and Ryan Brennan finished 8th (Advancing to State Open)
 - Girls swimming : 8 swimmers advanced to the Class L meet
2. Warning Track at the Girls' Varsity softball field due to be completed for December 5, 2014 (weather permitting).

3. Student Bus

- ✓ A student bus was paid for by a parent organization and team fundraising for the High School Football game on November 15, 2014.

4. Next Athletic Committee meeting TBA with a tentative date of February 4, 2105. Date is dependent on the budget workshops and will be made definite as time gets closer.

5. ACES – No ACES Report

6. North Haven PTA Council

Mrs. Cecarelli reported:

The North Haven PTA Council met on December 8, 2014 in the NHHS Library conference room. Representatives from the following groups were present and provided reports:

Patricia Iraci, Director of food Services was the guest speaker. Ms. Iraci discussed the district's wellness policy, and mentioned that a committee would be forming as the Board moves towards revisions on the current policy. This committee will be made up of parents, students, teachers, and administrators.

1) NHHS Student Council provided an overview of high school activities since October. These include: glow in the dark pep rally, senior to senior breakfast, World Language Day, Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society) selling "Holiday grams", a Holiday Food Drive, the Humanitarian Aid Club/NHHS Honor society combining forces for a toy drive, upcoming midterms, and the Road Race will be on May 2, so save the date for that.

2) NHMS PTSA reported several successful fundraisers, including a collaboration with the NHEF on the luminary Project, \$450 raised at Chipotle in October, \$2900 on cookie dough and pie sale, \$200 at their parent conference bake sale and their Scholastic book Fair. Other exciting activities at the middle school include Shrek the Musical, a teaming of efforts with the NHHS Diversity Club, an FPS field trip to attend a seminar on processed foods at Cromwell Middle School, and plans for a town-wide adult spelling bee. They also shared their excitement about having Mr. Castiglione on board as their newest administrator.

3) Ridge Road shared several fundraising efforts and school activities. Fundraising efforts included: Shred Day which took in 8,400 pounds of paper and netted them \$1,632, their Holiday Fair and Coat Drive, a "Street Sign Auction", and a pie/cookie dough sale. Yearbook sales are underway, and are offered on line this year. Everyone enjoyed the "Fan of" spirit day. Their holiday concert will be December 17 at 5:30 pm.

4) Green Acres reported that they have also been enjoying a great year thus far. Their pumpkins for UNICEF raised \$1500 for the organization. They also teamed up with the NHEF on their efforts with luminaries. They hosted their Scholastic Book Fair during parent conferences. One of their recent student council spirit days was a sports day, and money was raised for the CT Special Olympics. Their upcoming spirit day will be on December 23, and it will be their traditional school-wide sing-a-long /pajama day. The sing-a-long will be followed by hot cocoa for all.

5) Montowese School shared that their family pumpkin carving event was a success. They also hosted a Scholastic Book Fair during conferences. They had a very successful Vendor Village event, with 65 vendors, with each vendor donating a prize for their raffle. This event also hosted several popular local food trucks. They are in talks with Clintonville School to coordinate their efforts next year. The school also hosted a math and literacy night for parents on November 5, and the school is also discussing perhaps becoming involved with Nature's Classroom in the future.

The PTA Council Executive Board discussed joining Constitution SEPTA, which is the Official Statewide Affiliate of the CT PTA. They have committees at both the community and State level for both education and advocacy.

The next PTA Council meeting will be on January 26 at 7:00 in the NHHS Library Conference room. The guest speaker will be Don Romoser, CT PTA President. All are invited to attend.

- NHHS Student Council
- NHMS PTSA
- Ridge Road PTA
- Green Acres PTA
- Montowese School PTA
- NHEA
- Superintendent's report

7. Enrollment

8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cronin reported:

- Reminder: December 23rd abbreviated day
- It has been a good year with regards to competitive grants
 - Two Arts and Education mini grants have been awarded
 - Teacher/Administrator Coaching Grant awarded through ACES
 - Personal Finance Grant has been awarded
- Update on the Open Choice Program
 - Total of 13 elementary students this year
 - Total of 1 Middle School student this year
 - Total of 24 High School students this year
 - Hoping to accept 15-20 kindergarten students in the 2015-2016 school year
- School calendars – State Department of Education is asking all Educational Resource Centers (for us it is ACES) work with participating towns to try to form a uniform calendar for the school. North Haven piloted this last year and it worked out well. Dr. Cronin reported that their proposed calendar for the 2015-2016 looks good and meets all of North Haven's needs. He will have it for the Board to review at the January Board of Education Meeting.

9. Public Comments

10. Executive Session: NO EXECUTIVE SESSION NEEDED

11. Adjournment

Moved: to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Approved

MOVED: Jennifer Cecarelli
SECOND: Matthew Kerzner
AYE: 6
NAY: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Randi Petersen

Randi Petersen, Secretary